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DRAFT RESOLUTION ON INDUSTRIAL CONCILIATION ACT.

The new Industrial Conciliation Act, continuing the policy of the Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act, is designed to divide the workers, so destroying their effectiveness as a collective bargaining force, whilst, at the same time, it does not touch the employers, and leaves them united.

The effect of this can only be to increase competition between the racial groups in industry, leading to disharmony and to insecurity for both white and non-white workers. Such conditions will lower living standards and working conditions achieved through many years of struggle by the workers, through unions in which workers of different races co-operated.

In view of these facts, this National Executive Committee:

a) States the the fight against this Act has not ended with its passing in Parliament and publication in the 'Gazette'. The struggle against this and the Native Labour Act is a continuing one which will only end when full trade union rights have been won for all workers. It therefore calls on all trade unions to intensify the understanding of their members of the motives inspiring this legislation, of its consequences in concrete terms for all workers, and of the need for working-class and democratic unity in opposing it. If this task is undertaken in an energetic and united way, the trade union movement has the strength to defeat the anti-working class and racialist provisions of this Act before they come into effect.

In order to bring about a more united action on this specific issue, the South African Congress of Trade Unions will support a conference of those trade unions which are directly affected by this Act in order to bring about a common front and

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- b) Draws attention to the fact that registered trade unions have one year from the date of commencement of the Act in which to comply with the provisions of its Section 8(3) which imposes apartheid on mixed trade unions. The commencement of the Act has, at the date of this resolution not yet been proclaimed.
- c) Calls on workers to consider the situation created by the passing of this Act calmly, and not to take hurried decisions which play into the hands of the Government; examples of such decisions include both the division of existing mixed unions on racial lines, and decisions which would have the effect of causing existing mixed registered trade unions to be deregistered.
- d) Draws attention to the right of the Minister to exempt trade unions from the provisions of section 8 (3) by "having regard to the extent to which the membership of the union concerned is composed of white persons and coloured persons"
- e) Calls on trade unions not voluntarily to comply with the racialist provisions of the Act, thus enabling the Government to say that trade unions support apartheid.
- f) Affiliated unions are specifically requested not to make use of the provisions of Section 77 of the Act, which provides for the reservation, in given occupations and areas of jobs for certain races only and to oppose the application of this section whenever it is invoked.

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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